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International Court of Justice

H0966-0002

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

20 June 1946

COMMISSIONER: Mr. George R. Taylor

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours)

JOHANN ADAM MOHR, a witness took the stand and testified as follows:

MR. TAYLOR: Remind the witness that he is still under oath?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. TAYLOR: Proceed with the witness, Dr. Link.

DIRECT EXAMINATION RESUMED

BY DR. LINK (Defense Counsel for the Corps of Political Leaders)

Q. Yesterday we stopped when you told me that the Agrarpolitischer Apparat did not have any part in the political judgments. Do you wish to add anything to that?

A. No, we were not allowed to sign any political valuations.

Q. On the basis of everything you told us in regard to the position and function of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, it is fair to consider them political leaders?

A. I believe I answered that question alreadyyesterday, and I would like to reaffirm that the functions of Agrarpolitischer Apparat did not correspond to the functions of a political Hoheitstrager.

Q. I want to get that quite clear. You say that the Agrarpolitischer Affairs Apparat, the Counsellor of Farmers ~~affairs~~ was different from that of the Ho-

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heitstrager. That, of course, is clear, but there are other political leaders besides the Hoheitstrager. I want to know whether in your opinion the Agrar-politischer Apparat wasn't even a political leader at all?

A. As far as I can judge on the basis of my experiences, I did not consider those advisors of farmers' affairs, a Political Leader in the sense of the indictment.

Q. You stated that those advisors of farmers' affairs filled a dual function on the ~~xxx~~ one hand as any other member of the Party - they were subordinate to the Hoheitstrager. On the other hand they received the professional instructions from their farmers' organizations. What consequence did these dual functions have and did any conflicts arise from that?

A. One may well say difficulties were created continuously.

Q. In what respect - give a few examples.

A. I stated already yesterday that there were continuous ~~xxxxxxxx~~ difficulties between the farmers' leaders and the head officers of the Party Chancellory, as for instance Hess ~~xx~~ and Bormann, and those which existed on the top, of course, continued down to the lower levels too.

Q. Could you tell us how the higher ~~xxxxx~~ leadership of the Party expressed itself on that level of farmers which you represented?

A. Yes, there are a number of characteristic expressions on that subject. The Gauleiter, Adolf Wagner of Munich once said, "What do you want to be? Do you want to be Fuehrers; there is only one Fuehrer, and his name is Hitler." A common joke in the Eastern parts of the Reich was called the Reichsnahrstand - which is the professional party of the farmers or a party of reactionaries. In regard to the complaints of the farmers' organization, Goebbels is supposed to have said, "Learn to suffer without to complain."

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Com. B.
Take 1 - 3
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Q. You stressed that the supreme leaders of the Party - Hess, Bormann, and Goebbels were engaged in actual fight against the Agrarpolitischer Apparat. What were the reasons of such fight and why didn't they like the farmers' organizations in the Party?

A. The ways and means how the Agrarpolitischer Apparat conducted its business led the people, particular in the subdividion #1, that was resented by the Party leadership.

Q. And what did the supreme leadership of the Party - I'm referring to those prominent individuals whom you mentioned - what did they do in regard to the Agrarpolitischer Apparat?

A. In some instances, speaial offices were created to realize those aims which the party was not able to accomplish through the existing Agrarpolitischer Apparat.

Q. What did Darre do?

A. Darre was compelled to resign in 1942.

Q. You stated yesterday that the office for the farmers which was created then was supposed to strenghten the influence of the Party, but that that was frustrated by the fact that the same people who had been leading the Agrarpolitischer Apparat were now the leaders in that new office for the farmers, and that they resisted the efforts of the Party leadership, is that correct?

A. It is true that to some extent that new office for the farmers did establish Gau offices, but no change was brought about in regard to the actual work done, particularly the farmer leaders continued to refuse to accept full time positions in the service of the Party.

Q. As far as I know Mr. Backe succeeded Mr. Darre?

A. Yes.

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Q. Was he too unable to hold his stand against Bormann and the other leaders of the Nazi Party?

MR. MONNERAY: I don't think the witness has necessary knowledge to give his opinions on the very high levels of the higher Parties.

DR. LINK: I withdraw that question ff I shall be granted the privilege of hearing vice minister Darre briefly on the question. Minister Darre is in Nurnberg too.

MR. TAYLOR: Very well.

BY DR. LINK:

Q. Did you participate in a farmers' conference which was held in Munich in January or February 1944, in which case Oberbefehlshaber Friedrichs complained about the non-cooperative attitude and assistance offered by the Agrarpolitischer Apparat or its successor the Office for the Farmers and the other forces of the Reich (Farmers' Professional Organizatipns)?

A. Yes, I did participate at that conference.

Q. And it is correct that ~~Friedrichsxxxx~~ Friedrichs expresses himself that way?

A. The essence of the speech which Friedrichs made was about that one and one-half years elapsed since the office of the farmers had been set up and practically no work had been accomplished by them.

Q. May I ask you to summarize the answer to the following question as far as the period of times are concerned during which the Agrarpolitischer Apparat or later its successors, the Office for the Farmers did exist - that means from 1930 - 1932 to the end of the war. Would you say it is correct that those office holders in that organization could not be considered political staff officers of the Hoheitstrager - of the Party?

A. It is my conviction that they could not be considered staff officers in the sense of the indictment.

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MR. TAYLOR: Dr. Link, don't you think we have covered very thoroughly the examination of this witness as to the activities of the agricultural organization.

DR. LINK: I agree with the Commission. The only question remains whether any specific questions should be submitted to ~~the witness~~ the witness in regard to specific points of the indictment against the program of Political Leaders.

MR. TAYLOR: Does Counsel have those special question which should be asked?

DR. LINK: Yes, sir.

MR. TAYLOR: Continue then.

(Indeng) Q. What do you know about the orders or instructions issued to the advisors or experts of farmers' affairs in regard to a fight against the church?

A. I do not know anything of such instructions.

Q. Did you issue any orders of that kind?

A. No.

Q. Would you care to give us a few examples to illustrate the attitude toward religion among your circles?

A. I personally saw to it that Juliusspital, a Catholic Hospital in Wurzburg, was maintained as an independent institute and was not incorporated into the university. I saw to it that the Estate formerly at Munsterschwarzach near Kitzinger - that that estate should not be sold. I also saw to it that the outposts of the religious women orders which existed in the small towns - that outposts should be maintained, and I was successful in that effort.

Q. Would it be fair to say that the attitude which you manifested with those few personal incidents existed - would you say they were characteristics for all the farmers, experts and advisors?

A. In the majority of the cases that would be true.

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Com. B.
Take 1 - 6
Winkler
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Q. In regard to the church question, there existed, if I remember correctly, principle order of Mr. Darre.

A. Darre issued an order,and I do not recall when it was, to the effect that the farmers' leaders were not permitted to leave the church.

Q. ~~Did the leaving of the~~ Would the leaving of the church have resulted in the dismissal from the positions those farmers and leaders were holding?

A. Yes, I believe it said literally that the person who wishes to leave the church had to resign from his party offices first.

Q. Did that order remain in force until the end or did Darre suspend it?

A. In 1940 Darre did suspend that order.

Q. Why?

A. He thought that by doing so he could save the existence of Dept. #1 of the Reichsnahrstand.

Q. Did the suspension of that order in 1940 result - first of all was it actually known to the farmer leaders; secondly, did it result in a wholesale leaving of the church by the farmers' leaders.

A. As far as I know that order was issued ~~secretly~~ secretly as a secret order to the Landesbauernfuhrers, and I do not know of any wholesale or any large scale leaving of the church by the farmers leaders.

Q. Were there any measures taken on the basis of the race theory - or race party?

A. Not that I know of. As far as Agrarpolitischer Apparat are concerned.

Q. It is a well known fact that Jews dealt to a large extent with welling of cows and other livestock in the rural areas? Did the Agrarpolitischer Apparat do anything to diminish the influence of those Jewish leaders?

A. As far as I know those Jewish livestock dealers were permitted to continue their business until their establishments were aryanized and until that time both farmers and farmers' leaders were dealing with them.

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Q. By the thing you call aryanization - you mean measures taken by the State, don't you?

A. Yes.

Q. What were the measures taken by the Agrarpolitischer Apparat and its successors, officials for the farmers, in regard to people arrested for political reasons? For instance, how did you and your co-workers hear about such cases?

A. As a rule we were informed through the family when a man was arrested for political reasons. Practically never did the Party hand down that information to us.

Q. And what did you do with the farm of such a man?

A. The first measure - we took was to see to it that the farm would continue its operation without interruption.

Q. And what measures did you take in regard to the man who had been arrested?

A. In regard to the man who had been arrested we contacted the police or other State authorities concerning the case to help as much as possible.

Q. How many people did you put into a concentration camp?

A. Not one.

Q. How many people did you get out of concentration camps?

A. Actually one.

Q. Did you make any more general efforts in regard to getting people free out of concentration camps?

A. A man - a [redacted] merchant who was unable to find another position - I took as a bookkeper in the department in my office in Munich.

Q. You are referring to a man who had been dismissed from a concentration camp?

A. Yes.

Q. Could you give us the names of individuals whom you tried to get free from concentration camps?

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MAJOR MURRAY (U.S. Prosecutor): It seems to me that this is entirely irrelevant and does not pertain to the criminality of the organization. Apparently, he is trying to prove that this man did not put any men in the concentration camp - he tried to get them out.

DR. LINK: In my opinion that man is not here as an individual man, but as a man who has been in leading positions in this farmers' organization, and I want to ask the last question particularly, so that you may have a possibility to examine him. I withdraw the question.

MR. TAYLOR: With that explanation, go ahead and have the witness answer it.

DR. LINK:

Q. Could you give the names of the Jews or non-Jewish individuals on whose behalf you were working that they be dismissed from concentration camps?

MR. TAYLOR: Dr. Link, what is the purpose of that question - as to who he individually helped. Would that be a general defense of the organization?

D.R LINK: The purpose of the question is the following: in case that in spite of all the witnesses has told us, the prosecution should yet not be convinced that the group of people which the witness represents - that they had nothing to do with the indicted organization. For that reason I would like to ask questions which would prove that they had nothing to do with the group inthe indictment.

MR. TAYLOR: I think that if my memory serves me of the evidence offered by the witness that he very thoroughly covered the agricultural organization, and various offices which he testified he held. It appears now that we are getting to the individual action on the part of just one person. The Commission will hear the witness' answer, but I would like to call counsel's attention to the fact that it appears that these questions are getting along the line of irrelevancy of the defense of the organization itself.

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DR. LINK: All right, sir.

A. Through our efforts we were able to prevent the arresting or the putting in concentration camps a number of individuals: Dir Drinnein of Schweinfurt; Leers, Miltenburg; Trust of Wurzburg; Knecht of Eisenbach; Fischer of Eisenbach; Gering of Oberspiersheim. And one man from Bisdibrunn - I forgot his name. We got out of a concentration camp.

Q. There were, as everybody knows, hundreds and thousands of foreign men and women employed by farmers in Germany, and due to your position and influence, you should know about their position - in whose confidence was the allottment of those people and who was in charge of large majority of arrangements for those foreign laborers?

A. As far as the allottment of laborers was concerned - that was the job of the State office of labor supply. As far as the care of living arrangements was concerned that was the duty of Betriebsgefolgschaftswart, that means the man in charge of plans and farms who was an officer of the Reichsnahrstand.

Q. Since there was so large a number of foreign laborers employed in agriculture, I would assume that you learned of many complaints, both of employers and employees?

A. Yes, there were many complaints on both sides.

Q. How was the proportion or ratio to the number of people actually employed?

A. The number of the proportion was very small.

Q. And whose business was it to deal with those complaints?

A. Whenever the employer and employee were unable to reach an agreement, and if the conflict was brought to the attention of the Reichsnahrstand, the local officials were called and whose object was to care for those farmers. He tried to smooth out things between them peacefully.

Q. Now, the following questions arise - was it the competence and the duty

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of those Betriebsgefolgschaftswart to mediate in those conflicts or did they do it only ~~with~~ because the complaining party came to them or was it rather the duty of the State Labor Office to mediate in such conflicts?

A. I stated already that always the allottment of labor was the business of the State Labor Office, and that all cases of personal nature, as for instance was the duty of Betriebsgefolgschaftswart of the Reichsnahrstand.

Q. For an example, what did that Betriebsgefolgschaftswart actually do if foreign labor, for instance, a Pole came to him complaining that he had been mistreated by his employer?

A. There were infestigations made and if it was found that the complaint was justified as it was in many cases, he was given another job to work at.

Q. And if the employer was right?

A. If the employer was right - in most cases the complainer was transferred to another job, and if he was not suitable for agriculture, he was transferred to another job.

Q. How many farmers did you get acquainted with in the course of your official duties - farms on which one or more foreign laborers were mployed.

A. At any rate many thousands.

Q. Will you very briefly summarize your impression as to feeding, housing, and other living conditions in which the foreign laborers found themselfes on the farms?

A. In practically all cases, I think very few exceptions, the foreign laborer was accepted in the farmer's family unit. He ate with the family and moved around in the circle of the farmer's family.

Q. Should I understand you that such foreign laborer, as a rule, was treated just as any other German employee of the farm - might even consider himself a member of the farmer's family?

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A. Yes, and in some farms it just couldn't have been handled differently.

Q. Do you know of any instructions to the effect that the so-called laborers of foreign blood were prohibited to enter German restaurants or to use public conveyances or which gave the German employer the right to punish the foreign laborers?

A. I do know of the existence of such ordnance, but it was not observed actually.

Q. What do you mean it was not observed actually - do you mean it was published to everybody, but that the farmers did not obey or do you mean that the Reichsnahrstand did not hand it down to the farmers?

A. Inmost cases the offices of the Reichsnahrstand did not pass on this instruction, because they were well aware that they wouldn't be observed in anyway in the farming districts.

Q. How many incidents of mistreatment of foreign laborers do you know of, on the basis of your experiences in those thousands of farms of which you have been speaking?

A. Considered on the basis of the labof supply actually employed, I would say very few.

Q. In those few cases to which you refer to you include only those in which the German employer acted incorrectly or also those in which it had been proven that the foreign laborer himself had not acted properly?

A. I'm speaking of all cases - of all kind which were known.

Q. There are two questions left? Do youknow of any order issued by any office of the various farmers' organizations to the effect that thepopulation should lynch or mistreat Allied aviators who had to baile out of their planes?

A. Of such an order I learned only after the end of the war.

Q. The cneter of your professional work was/situated in the city of

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Wurzburg, wasn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. When the very heavy air attacks on the city of Schweinfurt occurred, did you have an opportunity to make any observation as to the treatment of foreign aviators either by the population or by the Political Leaders?

A. When an air attack was performed against the city of Schweinfurt, American bombers had to bail out near the place where I lived and the American flyers were arrested by farmers and turned over as prisoners to the Army in the nearby city of Wertheim.

Q. Have you learned from any district or from any other town that farmers or the farmers' officials had performed any hostiel against Allied aviators?

A. I can say honestly that I have heard of such incidents only after the end of the War.

Q. Was it in any way the function of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat or its successor the Office for the Farmers or the Reichsnahrstand - were any of them concerned with the preparations of the aggressive war.

A. No kind of activity was performed from which one could have concluded the preparation of an aggressive war.

Q. My last question - did you ever participate in any conferences or conversations or did you ever learn of a conference or conversation in which other officials of the farmers participated - the purpose of which was to discuss matters which you would consider indecent or criminal in the sense of the present indictment?

A. I know of no conferences or conversations which could have been interpreted in that manner.

DR. LINK: No further questions.

MR. TAYLOR: The Commission will recess for ten minutes.

Recess: 1130 hours

Com. B
Take 2 - P 1
20 June 1946
Noll
Mohr

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1130 hours

CROSS-EXAMINATION

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. Witness, let me absolutely clear who you are. If I understand correctly, from 1934 to 1945 you were a landeshauptabteilungsleiter in the gau of Munich. Is that correct?

A. I was landeshauptabteilungsleiter in ~~Munich~~ Bayern/Munchen.

Q. Was that before 1945?

A. Yes.

Q. What was your relationship, then, to the chief of the amt for Agrarpolitischer Apparat on the gauleiter staff?

A. ~~He, himself~~. That was who I was.

Q. And ~~x~~ what was your salary as the holder of that office?

A. It was a honorary office, and I did not receive any salary.

Q. So that you made a living as a farmer in your own private capacity?

A. Yes.

Q. Were the heads of the departments for health and education and welfare, and so forth, on the staff of the gauleiter, all honorary appointments?

A. As far as I know, all the employees in most of the gaus were honorary.

Q. What did you do in the last war, in 1918?

A. I was a soldier from January 1916 to January 1919.

Q. And why didn't you fight in this war?

A. I was declared indispensable, due to my activity in the Reichsnaehrstand.

Q. And you have told us that you wrote articles on farming. Roughly, how many articles did you write?

A. I have stated that I wrote one article.

Q. And did you take an interest in politics in those years?

A. Partially, yes.

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Q. You took an interest, I suppose, in politics at least insofar as they concerned farmers?

A. Yes. I was an organizer of the Christian Farmers Society.

Q. So you were in no doubt as to the aims and the policies which they used to attain those aims in the Nazi Party?

A. I did not know anything of the things which were found out after the breakdown.

Q. Are you telling this commission that you didn't know that the persecution of the Jews was one of the chief features of Nazi policy?

A. Yes, Jewish persecution for some years--and then the economic controversy, which simply existed.

Q. Yes, but the persecution and the eventual elimination of the Jews was none the less a policy of the government which you supported.

A. I have stated before during the interrogation that, as far as Aryanization was concerned, we became active only after 1938; and we became active only as an amt, and not as a Party office.

Q. But you must answer my question. I am asking you whether, as a student of politics which you expressed yourself to be , you were aware of the trend of Nazi policy in 1933?

A. I wasn't conscious of it.

Q. You were aware of the Jewish boycott of 1933, were you not?

A. I stated previously that, after 1933, Jewish people, as far as they were concerned with cattle trading or any other business relationship with the farmers, continued to go about their business. After the seizure of power I, myself, purchased horses and cattle from a Jew.

Q. But you have not answered my question. Were you aware of the boycott against Jews in 1933?

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A. Yes, I knew of it; but one could not put it into practice.

Q. You knew of it, and yet in 1934 you accepted office as head of the amt for Agrarpolitischer Apparat in a gau of the Party organization?

A. Yes.

Q. So we ~~jx~~ may infer from that, may we not, that, although you, in agriculture, had no opportunity of putting that policy into practice, yet by accepting a post in that government you did show approval of putting that policy into application?

A. Yes. I want to repeat, however, that we do not approve of those things as we see them now.

Q. But you did know of the discriminatory decrees of 1935, did you not?

A. After they had been put into effect.

Q. And the brutal demonstrations against Jews in 1938?

A. I heard about them later.

Q. And at the time...at the time, I emphasize, during those years, ~~dix~~ did you continue to approve of that policy?

A. The Nazi law was a law.

Q. That is not what I am asking you. I am asking you whether, during those years, you approved of the policy which the Nazi government was pursuing.

A. Yes, at that time, yes.

Q. You have told ~~you~~ us that you had at least one man released from a concentration camp. From which concentration camp was he released?

A. As far as I know, it was Oranienburg.

Q. What other concentration camps did you know about?

A. Dachau, Buchenwald, and Oranienburg.

Q. Was the man who was released from the concentration camp at your request a friend of yours?

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A. No, I did not ~~xxxxxx~~ even know this man. He was a forester.

Q. Did you see him when he came out of the concentration camp? I suppose he gave you an account of conditions inside Oranienburg?

A. He told me, and I could see it from his looks, that the rations were quite good; and he characterized the treatment there as correct.

Q. I see. Did you approve, during those years, of the committal of men and women to concentration camps without trial?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever voice a protest within the office of the gau about concentration camps?

A. Yes. I even put myself out for the people whose names I have mentioned before, so that they would not be put into concentration camps.

Q. Did you tell the gauleiter that you thought it a shocking thing to put people into a concentration camp without trial?

A. I told the ~~gauleiter~~ gauinspekteur, who was the competent authority on that.

Q. And what did he say to you?

A. He told me that concentration camps were not a ~~SS~~ creation of the Party, but that competent authorities for that would be Hitler and the SS.

Q. But you knew that the SS was a Party organization, didn't you?

A. Yes, but completely autonomous.

Q. And didn't you know that the whole foundation of the Nazi Party was the hoheitstraeger?

A. I was acquainted with this fact, and that was the sense of my statement here.

Q. It didn't occur to you that some influence could be brought to bear on the SS through the gauleiter?

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A. It never occurred to me.

Q. Were you ever a member of the SA?

A. From 1932 to 1935 I was a member of the SA, then remained with the SA as an honorary member later.

Q. Were most of the experts on the gauleiter's staff, in a similar position to yours, members of the SA?

A. More than 90% of the bauernfuehrers were members of the SS.

Q. Were you a member of the SS?

A. No.

Q. Did you ever have any dealings with the SS in the course of your duties as landeshauptabteilungsleiter?

A. Yes.

Q. Will you tell us what the nature of those transactions were?

A. I received questionnaires from the SS regarding my transfer to the SS, but I rejected that.

Q. What were the reasons you gave for rejecting the proposal that you transfer to the SS?

A. I did not see any reason for every bauernfuehrer to transfer to the SS. I believed that, having come from the SA, I should remain with the SA.

Q. Why did the SS want you to transfer to the SS?

A. With few exceptions all bauernfuehrers belonged to the SS, and, while I do not know the reason, there may have been an agreement between Darre and Hitler.

Q. I suppose it was thought that you could carry out your duties as bauernfuehrer if you were a member of the SS?

A. I do not believe it, since I was able to show equal successes as I was.

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Q. What was the result of your refusal to transfer to the SS?

A. None. I was promoted just as well with the SA.

Q. After the beginning of the war, were you concerned with the morale of the farmers and farm workers?

A. Yes.

Q. You have told me that complaints by foreign workers and complaints by their employers were reported to you. Were those reports made to you so that you could take executive action on them?

A. These reports were submitted to me or to officers which were subordinate to me.

Q. So that, although labor was not allotted to individual farmers by your office, it was thereafter controlled by your office?

A. They were cared for by my office.

Q. Do you mean by "cared for" that you were responsible for their efficiency and discipline?

A. This was not our duty. We were there merely to check on complaints--either from employer or from employee--and to arbitrate them.

Q. That surely wasn't the full extent of your functions as head of the amt for Agrarpolitischer Apparat. I suppose you visited farms and considered their efficiency and made recommendations for additional labor for them?

A. That was the task of the kreisbauernfuehrer, who at the same time officiated as kreisfachberater.

Q. But wasn't the position this, that you on the gauleiter's staff were superior to the kreisbauernfuehrer in the gau--and weren't they responsible to you?

A. I have repeatedly stated yesterday and today that the kreisbauernfuehrer were subordinate to the landesbauernfuehrer, and the kreis professional expert

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was subordinate to the gau professional expert.

Q. But you don't want us to believe, do you, that you were just a welfare expert? You had some authority, didn't you, within the gau?

A. I did have authority, but the aim of our activity was to gain complete cooperation of all people working on farms, including labor; and our success proved it well done.

Q. Did you not think of this foreign labor as slave labor?

A. No, never.

Q. Well, what was it if it wasn't slave labor?

A. I have stated before that these were people that had equal rights, at the table as well as at work.

Q. Did you know that these were people who had been taken away from their homes and families against their will, to work for the German people?

A. Originally, we did not know that at all.

Q. But you were working closely with these foreign laborers. You must have known from whence they came.

A. We knew that, but we also saw that the common living together led to very few disputes.

Q. You didn't think, though, that they had come to Germany of their own free will?

A. Originally, yes.

Q. How much were these foreign workers working on farms paid?

A. I can only say, from my own farm, that I paid above the scale. Generally the scale was demanded.

Q. Do you mean by that that on your own farm you paid foreign workers more than the scale laid down for German workers in Germany?

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A. There was a pre-war minimum wage regulation for foreign labor.

Q. Was there a minimum wage for farm laborers laid down in Germany, irrespective of whether it was German or foreign labor?

A. After the arrival of the first transports, there appeared a wage scale for foreign labor.

Q. Can you tell me at what date there first came into force one scale for foreign labor and another scale for German labor?

A. I cannot tell the exact date. I can only state that I, and many other heads of farms, paid these people according to the "roving workers" scale.

Q. Did you pay them according to that scale until the end of the war?

A. I myself, and many other farmers, did not introduce the lower minimum scale.

Q. What was the difference between the minimum foreign labor scale and the minimum for German farm workers?

A. There was only a minor difference.

Q. By 1944, of course, you were in no doubt at all that the foreign laborers were not in Germany of their own free will, were you?

A. I stated previously that originally I did not know anything about that. From 1943 or so, I do not remember the exact time--we heard of ways of acquiring that labor in foreign countries which were practiced by some sort of officers there.

Q. And when you heard that, of course you couldn't be blind to the fact that such labor, working for rates lower than the minimum rates for Germans, was something very akin to slavery?

A. They all had savings accumulated when the war ended.

Q. As I understand it, you are speaking for all the experts on the gauleiter's staff?

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A. Yes. I am sitting here for the political organization for the office of Agrarpolitischer Apparat and for the amt Landvolk (office of the farmers).

Q. But am I not ~~x~~ right in saying that you are speaking not only for the office of Agrarpolitischer Apparat, but also for similarly placed experts--that is, for health, education, and ~~xxxfx~~ so forth, on the gauleiter's staff?

A. I assume that the experts in these fields will be permitted to have their say. I myself can state things only for the officeswhich I either know or have been in myself.

Q. Well, you are here to tell us that the ~~fx~~ office for Agrarpolitischer Apparat, at least, and other unspecified offices which you know well, were in no way connected with politics?

A. Yes.

Q. Can you estimate for me how many such offices there would have been on the staff of the gauleiter?

A. May I think it over? The office for Community Politics, education, technique, the NSV. At this moment I cannot recall any other offices--but there are some professional offices.

Q. The organization of those offices was an important part of a gauleiter's task, wasn't it?

A. One cannot say that that was a task of the gauleiter, because, for the farmers, the Reichsnaehrstand was competent; and before the Reichsnaehrstand, the Agrarpolitischer Apparat--in other words the professional experts of the gau and kreis.

Q. If it had not been for those people who filled offices in the office of the gau, it would, would it not, have been quite impossible for him to fill his position in the State?

A. One cannot say.

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Q. Well, he couldn't have carried it on alone, could he?

A. The gauleiter had his staff, as did respectively the offices of the kreisleiter and the ortsgruppenleiter.

Q. Yes, but they weren't experts on health, education, and agriculture. The gauleiter had to have such experts, didn't he, in order to enable him to fulfill the function for which he was appointed?

A. These professional experts were known as hoheitstraegers, collectively. I would call here Gauleiter Eggeling and Gauleiter Hildebrandt, who were, for instance, agricultural workers or farmers. There were kreisleiters who were farmers by profession, and also ortsgruppenleiters who were farmers by profession.

Q. Who was the gauleiter under whom you served between 1934 and 1945?

A. While I was gaufachberater, it was only Gauleiter Dr. Hellmuth (Wurzburg). That was the only one. While I was in the Reichsnaehrstand I had several--Gauleiter Wagner (Munich), Gauleiter Geissler (Augsburg), Gauleiter Wahl (Suebia), Gauleiter Streicher (Franconia), Gauleiter Holz (Franconia), Gauleiter Zimmerman (Franconia), Gauleiters Schemm and Wechtler (Bayreuth).

Q. Do I understand that you fulfilled this office simultaneously in the office of several gauleiters?

A. No. I was for the Agrarpolitischer Apparat with Gaufachberater Hellmuth, but I had official connections with the others.

Q. During which period did you have official connections with Gauleiter Streicher in Franconia?

A. From 1934 to 1938.

Q. You couldn't fail to be aware of the worst anti-Jewish excesses committed by Streicher in Franconia?

A. A conference took place with Streicher's assistant, Holz, whose

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name I have given here, concerning the expulsion of Jewish cattle dealers from the markets of Wurzburg and Frankfurt--whence these people had gone since they were no longer admitted to the market here.

Q. Did you realize that, by continuing to serve under Streicher, you were giving your tacit approval of his behavior?

A. Since the situation in Nurnberg was in conflict with existing laws and constitutions, we left matters as before in Frankfurt and in Wurzburg since we did not agree with such procedure.

Q. But if you did not agree with such procedure, why didn't you resign your appointment?

A. We protested to Bormann, which is to say his representative here. We did not extend such matters into other areas where they had not been.

Q. But if there had been resignations from Streicher's staff, it would have been impossible for him to carry on?

A. I don't believe so, since Streicher's mentality would have caused him to go on in his usual way.

Q. But Streicher couldn't have carried on the administration of his gau if he had been unable to find any competent experts to serve under him?

A. It is my personal opinion that even/a lacking/of experts would not have caused Streicher to deviate from his course.

Q. But, although you realized that crimes were being committed by Streicher, you didn't think it would do any good to resign?

A. I don't think that that/had anything to do with the administration of the gau in this case, because Streicher was not the average type of gauleiter.

Q. You know, Witness, that it wasn't a very big step to take. Your appointment on Streicher's staff was only one of several honorary positions which you held. Surely, when you realized that this man was a criminal,

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the obvious ~~xxxx~~ manly thing to do would have been to disassociate yourself from him without delay?

~~xxxxxx~~ DR LINK: May I remark ~~xx~~ here that, in my opinion, very considerable mistakes seem to enter upon the scene. ~~I would like to suggest that~~ The witness has been asked whether he was ever on the staff of the gauleiters whose names were mentioned here with the staff of ~~xxx~~ Gauleiter Hellmuth. Consequently, I do not believe that the witness can answer the question ~~xxx~~ regarding the possible consequences pursuant to ~~xxx~~ the resignation of any of Streicher's co-workers, since he was never on the staff of Streicher himself.

MR. MARECCO: I don't want to misrepresent the witness's evidence in any way. If I might ask two short questions to clear this up.

DR. LINK: I merely wish to enter the statement, in connection with the interrogation, that the witness ~~x~~ never was a member of Streicher's staff.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. Witness, you don't want to be misrepresented. Were you at any time associated with the staff of Gauleiter Streicher?

A. No.

Q. Then what did you tell us about your connection with Streicher's ~~xxxxx~~ staff?

A. I have merely said that, in my capacity, ~~x~~ I was busy professionally within the five gaus of Munich, Ostravia, Upper Bavaria, Upper Franconia, and Lower Franconia.

Q. What exactly was the capacity in which you served in that connection? What ~~xx~~ duties did you have to perform in Streicher's gau?

A. As in all the other gaus which I have mentioned here, the activity extended to having to appear at conferences at the office of the gauleiter or to appear on questions pertaining to our office.

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Q. One final question: You have told us that you were aware of the crimes committed by Streicher within his gau. When you became aware of the crimes and the criminal nature of the man, can you tell us quite shortly why you didn't discontinue attending his conferences?

A. I was called there only once, and that was in connection with the expulsion of Jewish cattle dealers from the Nuernberg market.

MR. MARECCO: I have no further questions.

[illegible]

(The Commissioned adjourned until 1400 hours.)

Prepare Certificate for Secretary General Commissioners and Reporters

Com. B.
Take 3 - 1
Winkler
20 June 1946
Mohr

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

20 June 1946

Commissioner:

M. Martin Havard

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission convened at 1400 hours)

JOHANN ADAM MOHR, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

BY THE COMMISSIONER: The witness is reminded that he is stillunder oath.

THE WITNESS: Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY Mr. Monneray:

Q. Witness, how did you know that the monastery was to be sold?

A. I learned that due to the fact that in conjunction with the Father of that monastery who had to take care of it.

Q. Is is correct that certain monasteries were confiscated in order to resettle Germans from the East?

A. That I do not know and that I cannot answer.

Q. Had the Reichsnahrstand anything to do with the ayranization?

A. The offices of the Reichnahrstand were only requested to give their opinions.

Q. Those offices gave reports on the opportunity of ayranization, did they not?

A. No, only on the value of the objects.

Q. They knew that the object was to be taken away from the Jews, did they not?

A. Yes, in the course of the years - it was the ayranization of 1938.

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Q. Darre was the chief of the Reichnahrstand?

A. Yes, he was entitled to that by the Reichsbauernfuhrer.

Q. His ideas were the ideas everybody had to follow, is that correct?

A. Professionally, yes.

Q. And he expressed the general idealogy of the officials of the Nazis officially dealing with agriculture and peasantry?

A. Yes.

Q. And each official dealing in this matter endeavored for his part to realize those ideas, did he not?

A. Yes, that is correct, but there was always opportunity to raise objections.

Q. Do you know the use of German agriculturists of Soviet Russian prisoners of war?

A. Most were used on larger farms. I am not in position to give an exact figure.

Q. Do you know that those Russian prisoners of war did not receive the same food rations as the other workers?

A. Yes, we were told that.

Q. Yet, you maintain that all foreign workers had equal rights to German workers, do you not?

A. Previously we had not talked about prisoners of war. We had talked about free foreign laborers.

Q. Do you not consider prisoners of war as being foreign workers?

A. They didnot fall under the same regulations as the foreign laborers. They were under the Warregulations.

MR. MONNERAY: No further questions.

COL. ORLOV: No questions

LT. COMDR. HARRIS: No questions.

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Com. B.
Take 3 - 3
Winkler
20 June 1946
Mohr

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BY DR. LINK:

Q. You were asked whether you know anything about the Anti-Jewish War Court of 1933, and you answered that you subsequently learned about it. What ideas do you have in conjunction with the expression of the Anti-Jewish War Coutt of 1933 - what are you talking about?

A. I said this morning that an instruction concerning the boycott of Jewish enterprises did exist and could not be observed because certain economic sectors - as for instance, the trading of livestock and grain was in Jewish hands and couldn't automatically or suddenly be taken over by others.

Q. You frm further were asked with which Hoheitstrager of the Party you had official contact with. You mentioned Gauleiter Hellmuth of Wurzburg to whose staff you were attached as advisor of agriculaural matters and you mentioned alsà that an official of the Reichsnahrstand with other Party officials. First of all I bàlieve that you forget to mention the Kreisleiter to whose staff you were attached as agricultural advisor in the city of Marktheidenfeld.

A. It was my impression that I answered this question in the affirmative this morning.

Q. What was the name of the Kreisleiter?

A. The name of the Kreisleiter was Zorg.

Q. That would mean that in your position as staff officer attached to the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, you had dealings with Gauleiter Hellmut and Kreisleiter Zorg?

A. Yes, I did hold those positions, but I did not consider that a staff officer.

Q. I only want to find out to whose staff one might possibly have you considered. I would like to know whe her you further agree with me if I would say that your further relationships to other Gauleiters in Bavaria emerged from your position in the Landeshauptabteilungsleiter in Munich. Is thatcorrect?

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A. Yes.

Q. Therefore, would it be fair to say that your relations did not exclude those which any state office in the Third Reich had with those party Hoheitstragers?

A. Yes, I have to answer that in the affirmative.

Q. I would like now to make quite sure that there is no confusion of the different titles and functions to which you were attached; and, therefore, I would like to ask if you functioned first of all in the Agrarpolitischer Apparat in the position of Kreis and Gau Falh Berater. Secondly, in the framework of the Reichsnahrstand who were Landeshauptabteilungsleiters in the Landesbauernschaft in Bavaria?

A. Yes.

Q. In that position with the Reichsnahrstand you had nothing to do with the Hoheitstrager of the Party?

A. Only if we were requested to deal with them or if we got a written inquiry.

Q. The things which you told us in regard to the Kreisdauernschaft and the Reichsnahrstand as far as foreign labor was concerned. That belonged to the competents of the Reichsnahrstand, didn't it?

A. Yes, but I did mention that the party was endeavoring to absorb those functions.

Q. And that the Agrarpolitischer Apparat opposed these endeavors?

A. Yes, it was our endeavor to retain the professional concerns of the farmer on the level of the Reichsnahrstand.

Q. And in addition to those two functions you were holding with the Party and with the Reichsnahrstand, you were holding a third position with the State Nutrition Office?

A. Yes.

Q. For what position were you considered indispensible?

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A. For my work in the Landesbauernschaft and [redacted] Landeshauptabteilungs.

[redacted]

M. Martin Havard: We would like to know what is the purpose of all your questions counsel. Are those questions of a professional nature or with the line of the indictment that those organizations are criminal ones.

DR. LINK: My questions are in direct connection with questions which have been asked in the cross examination and the purpose of my question is to prevent any confusions of the different concept of farmers organizations which have been mentioned previously.

M. MARTIN HAVARD: You may continue.

Q. To a question a few minutes ago, you answered that Darre expressed the thoughts and ideas which were the opposite/[redacted] the thinking of the Party.

A. Yes, as far as the field of farmers' problems is concerned - yes.

Q. Does that question change in any way the answer you gave yesterday and this morning, stating that Darre was fighting the inter-party circles, particularly Bormann and Hess in regard to internal politization of the farmers?

A. I explained yesterday that Darre attempted to revitalize certain activities of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, but that he did not much succeed, and that the non-political remained unaltered.

Q. That is merely a partial answer to that question. You had stated that Darre in the interests of the farmers had been in [redacted] opposition to the efforts of [redacted]Bormann and Hess, and now one could conclude from your answer that Darre was an authorities on the matters on farming as far as the matters are concerned that he would have been in agreement with Bormann and Hess.

MR. MONNERAY: I think if the witness is qualified to testify about the ideas, but not qualified to testify about the relation between Darre, Bormann and Hess.

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DR. LINK: I may rephrase the question.

Q. Would you insist that Darre until the end of 1942 endeavored to oppose the efforts to establish a closer political contact between the Party and the farmers' organization, and that he therefore was dismissed from his office?

A. Darre repeatedly explained to us why he was in office and that he would oppose and continue to oppose the attempt of the Party to gain power to defend the farmers' organization.

Q. Last question - before the recess a gentlemen of the prosecution asked you whether you wouldn't admit that if not all professional advisors, like the advisor of peasantry affairs, and other professional advisors - if they had not continued to function then the Kreis and Gauleiter neither would have been able to continue their work for so long a time. Now I shall follow the theoratical speculation of the prosecution attorney. Let us suppose that all those professional advisors, for instances, all those farmer experts suddenly would have resigned from their offices. Would you believe that such a mass resignation would have led to the break down of the Nazi Regime or would you rather agree that such a mass resignation would have brought about a stronger rule of the Party over the farmers which you tried to fight for ten years?

A. If such wishful thinking of a mass resignation really would have been realized, Bormann's desire to gain more power over the farmers' organizations would have suddenly been realized.

DR. LINK: No further questions.

COMMISSIONER: The witness may retire.

Adjourned 1435 hours.

The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of JOHANN ADAM MOHR, taken on 19 and 20 June 1946.

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The foregoing is a true and correct transcript of the testimony of JOHANN ADAM MOHR taken on 20 June 1946.

D J Noll
Reporter

Bernice Winkler
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO: Leo Taylor
Commissioner

~~Commissioner~~

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OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNALDATED 13 MARCH 1946.

20 June 1946

COMMISSIONER: Mr. George R. Taylor

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission convened at 1000 hours)

JOHANN ADAM MOHR, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows:

MR. TAYLOR: Remind the witness that he is still under oath?

THE WITNESS: Yes.

MR. TAYLOR: Proceed with the witness, Dr. Link.

DIRECT EXAMINATION RESUMED

BY DR. LINK (Defense Counsel for the Corps of Political Leaders)

Q Yesterday we stopped when you told me that the Agrarpolitischer Apparat did not have any part in the political judgments. Do you wish to add anything to that?

A No, we were not allowed to sign any political valuations.

Q On the basis of everything you told us in regard to the position and function of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, it is fair to consider them political leaders?

A I believe I answered that question already yesterday, and I would like to reaffirm that the functions of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat did not correspond to the functions of a political Hoheitstrager.

Q I want to get that quite clear. You say that the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, the Counsellor of Farmers Affairs was different from that of the Hoheitstrager. That, of course, is clear, but there are other political leaders besides the Hoheitstrager. I want to know whether in your opinion the Agrarpolitischer Apparat wasn't even a political leader at all?

A As far as I can judge on the basis of my experiences, I did not consider those advisors of farmers' affairs, a Political Leader in the sense of the indictment.

Q You stated that those advisors of farmers' affairs filled a dual function on the one hand as any other member of the Party - they were subordinate to the Hoheitstrager. On the other hand they received the

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professional instructions from their farmers' organizations. What consequence did these dual functions have and did any conflicts arise from that?

A One may well say difficulties were created continuously.

Q In what respect -- give a few examples.

A I stated already yesterday that there were continuous difficulties between the farmers' leaders and the head officers of the Party Chancellory, as for instance Hess and Bormann, and those which existed on the top, of course, continued down to the lower levels too.

Q Could you tell us how the higher leadership of the Party expressed itself on that level of farmers which you represented?

A Yes, there are a number of characteristic expressions on that subject The Gauleiter, Adolf Wagner of Munich once said: "What do you want to be? Do you want to be Fuehrers; there is only one Fuehrer, and his name is Hitler." A common joke in the Eastern parts of the Reich was called the Reichsnahrstand - which is the professional party of the farmers or a party of reactionaries. In regard to the complaints of the farmers' organization, Goebbels is supposed to have said, "Learn to suffer without complaint."

Q You stressed that the supreme leaders of the Party -- Hess, Bormann, and Goebbels were engaged in actual fight against the Agrarpolitischer Apparat. What were the reasons of such fight and why didn't they like the farmers' organizations in the Party?

A The ways and means how the Agrarpolitischer Apparat conducted its business and led the people, particularly in the subdivision #1, that was resented by the Party leadership.

Q And what did the supreme leadership of the Party - I'm referring to those prominent individuals whom you mentioned -- what did they do in regard to the Agrarpolitischer Apparat?

A In some instances, special offices were created to realize those aims which the party was not able to accomplish through the existing Agrar-politischer Apparat.

Q What did Darre do?

A Darre was compelled to resign in 1942.

Q You stated yesterday that the office for the farmers which was created then was supposed to strengthen the influence of the Party, but that

that was frustrated by the fact that the same people who had been leading the Agrarpolitischer Apparat were now the leaders in that new office for the farmers, and that they resisted the efforts of the Party leadership, is that correct?

A It is true that tosome extent the new office for the farmers did establish Gau offices, but no change was brought about in regard to the actual work done, particularly the farmer leaders continued to refuse to accept full time positions in the service of the Party.

Q As far as I know Mr. Backe succeeded Mr. Darre?

A Yes.

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Q Was he too unable to hold his stand against Bormann and the other leaders of the Nazi Party?

M. MONNERAY: I don't think the witness has necessary knowledge to give his opinions on the very high levels of the higher Parties.

DR. LINK: I withdraw that question if I shall be granted the privilege of hearing vice minister Darre briefly on the question. Minister Darre is in Nurnbergtoo.

MR. TAYLOR: Very well.

BY DR. LINK:

Q Did you participate in a farmers' conference which was held in Munich in January or February 1944, in which case Oberbefehlshaber Friedrichs complained about the non-cooperative attitude and assistance offered by the Agrarpolitischer Apparat or its successor the Office for the Farmers and the other forces of the Reich (Farmers' Prfessional Organization;

A Yes, I did participate at that conference.

Q And it is correct that Friedrichs expresses himself that way?

A The essence of the speech which Friedrichs made was about that one and one-half years elapsed since the office of the farmers had been set up and practically no work had been accomplished by them.

Q May I ask you to summarize the answer to the following question as far as the period of times are concerned during which the Agrarpolitischer Apparat or later its successors, the Office for the Farmers did exist - that means from 1930 - 1932 to the end of the war. Would you say it is correct that those office holders in that organization could not be considered political staff officers of the Hoheitstrager - of the Party?

A It is my conviction that they could not be considered staff officer in the sense of the indictment.

MR. TAYLOR: Dr. Link, don't you think we have covered very thoroughly the examination of this witness as to the activities of the agricultural organization.

DR. LINK: I agree with the Commission. The only question remains whether any specific questions should be submitted to the witness in regard to specific points of theindictment against the program of Political Leaders.

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MR. TAYLOR: Does Counsel have those special questions which should be asked?

DR. LINK: Yes, sir.

MR. TAYLOR: Continue then.

Q What do you know about the orders or instructions issued to the advisors or experts of farmers' affairs in regard to a fight against the church?

A I do not know anything of such instructions.

Q Did you issue any orders of that kind?

A No.

Q Would you care to give us a few examples to illustrate the attitude toward religion among your circles?

A I personally saw to it that Juliusspital, a Catholic Hospital in Wurzburg, was maintained as an independent institute and was not incorporate into the university. I saw to it that the Estate formerly at Munsterschwarzach near Kitzinger -- that that estate should not be sold. I also saw to it that the outposts of the religious women orders which existed in the small towns - that outposts should be maintained, and I was successful in that effort.

Q Would it be fair to say that the attitude which you manifested with these few personal incidents existed - would you say they were characteristics for all the farmers, experts and advisors?

A In the majority of the cases that would be true.

Q In regard to the church question, there existed, if I remember correctly, principle order of Mr. Darre.

A Darre issued an order, and I do not recall when it was, to the effect that the farmers' leaders were not permitted to leave the church.

Q Would the leaving of the church have resulted in the dismissal from the positions those farmers and leaders were holding?

A Yes, I believe it said literally that the person who wishes to leave the church had to resign from his party office first.

Q Did that order remain inforce until the end or did Darre suspend it?

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A In 1940 Darre did suspend that order.

Q Why?

A He thought that by doing so he could save the existence of Dept. #1 of the Reichsnahrstand.

Q Did the suspension of that order in 1940 result - first of all was it actually known to the farmer leaders; secondly, did it result in a wholesale leaving of the church by the farmers' leaders.

A As far as I know that order was issued secretly as a secret order to the Landesbauernfuhrers, and I do not know of any wholesale or any large scale leaving of the church by the farmers leaders.

Q Were there any measures taken on the basis of the race theory - or race party?

A Not that I know of. As far as Agrarpolitischer Apparat are concerned.

Q It is a well known fact that Jews dealt to a large extent with selling of cows and other livestock in the rural areas? Did the Agrarpolitischer Apparat do anything to diminish the influence of those Jewish leaders?

A As far as I know those Jewish livestock dealers were permitted to continue their business until their establishments were aryanized and until that time both farmers and farmers' leaders were dealing with them.

Q By the thing you call aryanization - you mean measures taken by the State, don't you ?

A Yes.

Q What were the measures taken by the Agrarpolitischer Apparat and its successors, officials for the farmers, in regard to people arrested for political reasons ? For instance, how did you and your co-workers hear about such cases ?

A As a rule we were informed through the family when a man was arrested for political reasons. Practically never did the Party hand down that information to us.

Q And what did you do with the farm of such a man ?

A The first measure - we took was to see to it that the farm would continue its operation without interruption.

Q And what measures did you take in regard to the man who had been arrested ?

A In regard to the man who had been arrested we contacted the police or other State authorities concerning the case to help as much as possible.

Q How many people did you put into a concentration camp ?

A Not one.

Q How many people did you get out of concentration camps ?

A Actually one.

Q Did you make any more general efforts in regard to getting people free out of concentration camps ?

A A man - a merchant who was unable to find another position - I took as a bookkeeper in the department in my office in Munich.

Q You are referring to a man who had been dismissed from a concentration camp ?

A Yes.

Q Could you give us the names of individuals whom you tried to get free from concentration camps ?

MAJOR MURRAY (U.S. Prosecutor) : It seems to me that this is entirely irrelevant and does not pertain to the criminality of the organization. Apparently, he is trying to prove that this man did not put any men in the concentration camp - he tried to get them out.

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DR. LINK : In my opinion this man is not here as an individual man, but as a man who has been in leading positions in this farmers' organization, and I want to ask the last question particularly, so that you may have a possibility to examine him. I withdraw the question.

MR. TAYLOR : With that explanation, go ahead and have the witness answer it.

DR. LINK :

Q Could you give the names of the Jews or non-Jewish individuals on whose behalf you were working that they be dismissed from concentration camps ?

MR. TAYLOR : Dr. Link, what is the purpose of that question -- as to who he individually helped. Would that be of a general defense of the organizatior

DR. LINK : The purpose of the question is the following : in case that in spite of all the witnesses has told us, the prosecution should yet not be convinced that the group of people which the witness represents -- that they had nothing to do with the indicted organization. For that reason I would like to ask questions which would prove that they had nothing to do with the group in the indictment.

MR. TAYLOR : I think that if my memory serves me of the evidence offered by the witness that he very thoroughly covered the agricultural organization, and various offices which he testified he held. It appears now that we are getting to the individual action on the part of just one person. The Commission will hear the witness' answer, but I would like to call counsel's attention to the fact that it appears that these questions are getting along the line of irrelevancy for the defense of the organization itself.

DR. LINK : All right, sir.

A Through our efforts we were able to prevent the arresting or the putting in concentration camps a number of individuals : Drinnein of Schweinfurt; Leers, Miltenburg ; Trust of Wurzburg; Knecht of Eisenbach; Fischer of Eisenbach; Gering of Oberspiersheim. And one man from Disdibrunn - I forgot his name. We got out of a concentration camp.

Q There were, as everybody knows, hundreds and thousands of foreign men and women employed by farmers in Ger any, and due to your position and influence, you should know about their position - in whose confidence was the allottment of those people and who was in charge of majority of arrangements for those foreign laborers ?

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A As far as the allottment of laborers was concerned - that was the job of the State office of labor supply. As far as the care of living arrangements was concerned that was the duty of Betriebsgefolgschaftswart, that means the man in charge of plans and farms who was an officer of the Reichsnahrstand.

Q Since there was so large a number of foreign laborers employed in agriculture, I would assume that you learned of many complaints, both of employers and employees ?

A Yes, there were many complaints on both sides.

Q How was the proportion or ratio to the number of people actually employed ?

A The number of the proportion was very small.

Q And whose business was it to deal with those complaints ?

A Whenever the employer and employee were unable to reach an agreement, and if the conflict was brought to the attention of the Reichsnahrstand, the local officials were called and whose object was to care for those farmers. He tried to smooth out things between them peacefully.

Q Now, the following questions arise - was it the competence and the duty

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of those Betriebsgefolgschaftswart to mediate in those conflicts or did they do it only because the complaining party came to them or was it rather the duty of the State Labor Office to mediate in such conflicts ?

A. I stated already that always the allottment of labor was the business o the State Labor Office, and that all cases of personal nature, as for instanc was the duty of Betriebsgefolgschaftswart of the Reichsnahrstand.

Q. For an example, what did that Betriebsgefolgschaftswart actually do if foreign labor, for instance, a Pole came to him complaining that he had been mistreated by his employer ?

A. There were investigations made and if it was found that the complaint was justified as it was in many cases, he was given another job to work at.

Q. And if the employer was right ?

A. If the employer was right - in most cases the complainer was transferr to another job, and if he was not suitable for agriculture, he was transferre to another job.

Q. How many farmers did you get acquainted with in the course of your offi cial duties- farms on which one or more foreign laborers were employed.

A. At any rate many thousands.

Q. Will you very briefly summarize your impression as to feeding, housing, and other living conditions in which the foreign laborers found themselves on the farms ?

A. In practically all cases, I think very few exceptions, the foreign laborer was accepted in the farmer's family unit. He ate with the family and moved around in the circle of the farmer's family.

Q. Should I understand you that such foreign laborer, as a rule, was treated just as any other German employee of the farm -might even consider himself a member of the farmer's family ?

A. Yes, and in some farms it just couldn't have been handled differently.

Q. Do you know of nay instructions to the effect that the so-called laborers of foreign blood were prohibited to enter German restaurants or to use public convenances or which gave the German employer the right to punish the foreign laborers ?

A. I do know of the existence of such ordnance, but it was not observed actually.

H0966 - 0043

H0966 - 0044

Q. What do you mean it was not observed actually - do you mean it was published to everybody, but that the farmers did not obey or do you mean that the Reichsnahrstand did not hand it down to the farmers ?

A. Inmost cases the offices of the Reichsnahrstand did not pass on this instruction, because they were well aware that they wouldn't be observed anyway in the farming districts.

Q. How many incidents of mistreatment of foreign laborers do you know of, on the basis of your experiences in those thousands of farms of which you have been speaking ?

A. Considered on the basis on the labor supply actually employed, I would say very few.

Q. In those few cases to which you refer to you include only those in which the German employer acted incorrectly or also those in which it had been proven that the foreign laborer himself had not acted properly ?

A. I'm speaking of all cases - of all kind which were known.

Q. There are two questions left ? Do you know of any order issued by any office of the various farmers' organizations to the effect that the population should lynch or mistreat Allied aviators who had to baile out of their planes ?

A. Of such an order I learned only after the end of the war.

Q. The center of your professional work was situated in the city of Wurzburg, wasn't it ?

A. Yes.

Q. When the very heavy air attacks on the city of Schweinfurt occurred, did you have an opportunity to make any observation as to the treatment of foreign aviators either by the population or by the Political Leaders ?

A. When an air attack was performed against the city of Schweinfurt, American bombers had to bail out near the place where I lived and the American flyers were arrested by farmers and turned over as prisoners to the Army in the nearby city of Wertheim.

Q. Have you learned from any district or from any other town that farmers or the farmers' officials had performed any hostiel against Allied aviators ?

A. I can say honestly that I have heard of such incidents only after the end of the War.

Q. Was it in any way the function of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat or its successor the Office for the Farmers or the Reichsnahrstand- were any of them concerned with the preparations of the aggressive war.

A. No kind of activity was performed from which one could have concluded the preparation of an aggressive war.

Q. My last question - did you ever participate in any conferences or conversations or did you ever learn of a conference or conversation in which other officials of the farmers participated- the purpose of which was to discuss matters which you would consider indecent or criminal in the sense of the present indictment ?

A. I know of no conferences or conversations which could have been interpreted in that manner.

DR. LINK: No further questions.

MR. TAYLOR: The Commission will recess for ten minutes.

Recess: 1130 hours.

H0966 - 0045

H0966 - 0046

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q Witness, let me absolutely clear who you are. If I understand correctly, from 1934 to 1945 you were a landeshauptabteilungsleiter in the gau of Munich. Is that correct?

A I was landeshauptabteilungsleiter in Bayern/Munchen.

Q Was that before 1945?

A Yes.

Q What was your relationship, then, to the chief of the amt for Agrarpolitischer Apparat on the gauleiter staff?

A That was who I was.

Q And what was your salary as the holder of that office?

A It was a honorary office, and I did not receive any salary.

Q So that you made a living as a farmer in your own private capacity?

A Yes.

Q Were the heads of the departments for health and education and welfare, and so forth, on the staff of the auleiter, all honorary appointments?

A As far as I know, all the employees in most of the gaus were honorary.

Q What did you do in the last war, in 1918?

A I was a soldier f rom January 1916 to January 1919.

Q And why didn't you fight in this war?

A I was declared indispensable, due to my activity in the Reichsnachrstand.

Q And you have told us that you wrote articles on farming. Roughly how many articles did you write?

A I have stated that I wrote one article.

Q And did you take an interest in politics in those years?

A Partially, yes.

Q You took an interest, I suppose, in politics at least insofar as they concerned farmers?

A Yes. I was an organizer of the Christian Farmers Society.

Q So you were in no doubt as to the aims and the policies which they used to attain those aims in the Nazi Party?

H0966-0047

A I did not know anything of the things which were found out after the breakdown.

Q Are you telling this commission that you didn't know that the persecution of the Jews was one of the chief features of Nazi policy?

A Yes, Jewish persecution for some years--and then the economic controversy, which simply existed.

Q Yes, but the persecution and the eventual elimination of the Jews was none the less a policy of the government which you supported.

A I have stated before during the interrogation that, as far as Aryanization was concerned, we became active only after 1938; and we became active only as an amt, and not as a Party office.

Q But you must answer my question. I am asking you whether, as a student of politics which you expressed yourself to be, you were aware of the trend of Nazi policy in 1933?

A I wasn't conscious of it.

Q You were aware of the Jewish boycott of 1933, were you not?

A I stated previously that, after 1933, Jewish people, as far as they were concerned with cattle trading or any other business relationship with the farmers, continued to go about their business. After the seizure of power I, myself, purchased horses and cattle from a Jew.

Q But you have not answered my question. Were you aware of the boycot against Jews in 1933?

A Yes, I knew of it; but one could not put it into practice.

Q You knew of it, and yet in 1934 you accepted office as head of the amt for Agrarpolitischer Apparat in a gau of the Party organization?

A Yes.

Q So we may infer from that, may we not, that, although you, in agriculture, had no opportunity of putting that policy into practice, yet by accepting a post in that government you did show approval of putting that policy into application?

A Yes. I want to repeat, however, that we do not approve of those things as we see them now.

Q But you did know of the discriminatory decrees of 1935, did you not?

A After they had been put into effect.

HO966 -0048

Q And the brutal demonstrations against Jews in 1938?

A I heard about them later.

Q And at the time...at the time, I emphasize, during those years, did you continue to approve of that policy?

A The Nazi law was a law.

Q That is not what I am asking you. I am asking you whether, during those years, you approved of the policy which the Nazi government was pursuing.

A Yes, at that time, yes.

Q You have told us that you had at least one man released from a concentration camp. From which concentration camp was he released?

A As far as I know, it was Oranienburg.

Q What other concentration camps did you know about?

A Dachau, Buchenwald, and Oranienburg.

Q Was the man who was released from the concentration camp at you request a friend of yours?

H0966 - 0049

A No, I did not even know this man. He was a forester.

Q Did you see him when he came out of the concentration camp ? I suppose he gave you an account of conditions inside Oranienburg ?

A He told me, and I could see it from his looks, that the rations were quite good; and he characterized the treatment there as correct.

Q I see. Did you approve, during those years, of the committal of men and women to concentration camps without trial ?

A No.

Q Did you ever voice a protest within the office of the Gau about concentration camps ?

A Yes. I even put myself out for the people whose names I have mentione before, so that they would not be put into concentration camps.

Q Did you tell the gauleiter that you thought it a shocking thing to put people into a concentration camp without trial ?

A I told the gauinspekteur, who was the competent authority on that.

Q And what did he say to you ?

A He told me that concentration camps were not a creation of the Party, but that competent authorities for that would be Hitler and the SS.

Q But you knew that the SS was a Party organization, didn't you ?

A Yes, but completely autonomous.

Q And didn't you know that the whole foundation of the Nazi Party was the hoheitstraeger ?

A I was acquainted with this fact, and that was the sense of my statement here.

Q It didn't occur to you that some influence could be brought to bear on the SS through the gauleiter ?

A It never occurred to me.

Q Were you ever a member of the SA ?

A From 1932 to 1935 I was a member of the SA, then remained with the SA as an honorary member later.

Q Were most of the experts on the gauleiter's staff, in a similar position to yours, members of the SA ?

A More than 90% of the bauernfuehrers were members of the SS.

Q Were you a member of the SS ?

A No.

Q Did you ever have any dealings with the SS in the course of your duties as landeshauptabteilungsleiter ?

A Yes.

Q Will you tell us what the nature of those transactions were ?

A I received questionnaires from the SS regarding my transfer to the SS, but I rejected that.

Q What were the reasons you gave for rejecting the proposal that you transfer to the SS ?

A I did not see any reason for every bauernfuehrer to transfer to the SS. I believed that, having come from the SA, I should remain with the SA.

Q Why did the SS want you to transfer to the SS ?

A With few exceptions all bauernfuehrers belonged to the SS, and, while I do not know the reason, there may have been an agreement between Darre and Hitler.

Q I suppose it was thought that you could carry out your duties as bauernfuehrer if you were a member of the SS ?

A I do not believe it, since I was able to show equal successes as I was.

Q What was the result of your refusal to transfer to the SS ?

A None. I was promoted just as well with the SA .

Q After the beginning of the war, were you concerned with the morale of the farmers and farm workers ?

A Yes.

A You have told me that complaints by foreign workers and complaints by their employers were reported to you. Were those reports made to you so that you could take executive action on them ?

A These reports were submitted to me or to officers which were subordinate to me.

Q So that, although labor was not allotted to individual farmers by your office, it was thereafter controlled by your office ?

A They were cared for by my office.

H0966 -0050

Q Do you mean by "cared for" that you were responsible for their efficiency and discipline ?

A This was not our duty. We were there merely to check on complaints -- either from employer or from employee -- and to arbitrate them.

Q That surely wasn't the full extent of your functions as head of the

amt for Agrarpolitischer Apparat. I suppose you visited farms and considered their efficiency and made recommendations for additional labor for them ?

A That was the task of the Kreisbauernfuehrer, who at the same time officiated as kreisfachberater.

Q But wasn't the position this, that you on the gauleiter's staff were superior to the kreisbauernfuehrer in the gau -- and weren't they responsible to you ?

A I have repeatedly stated yesterday and today that the kreisbauernfuehrer were subordinate to the landesbauernfuehrer, and the kreis professional expert was subordinate to the gau professional expert.

Q But you don't want us to believe, do you, that you were just a welfare expert ? You had some authority, didn't you, within the gau ?

A I did have authority, but the aim of our activity was to gain complete cooperation of all people working on farms, including labor; and our success proved it well done.

Q Did you not think of this foreign labor as slave labor ?

A No, never.

Q Well, what was it if it wasn't slave labor ?

A I have stated before that these were people that had equal rights, at the table as well as at work.

Q Did you know that these were people who had been taken away from their homes and families against their will, to work for the German people ?

A Originally, we did not know that at all.

Q But you were working closely with these foreign laborers. You must have known from whence they came.

A We knew that, but we also saw that the common living together led to very few disputes.

Q You didn't think, though, that they had come to Germany of their own free will ?

A Originally, yes.

Q How much were these foreign workers working on farms paid ?

A I can only say, from my own farm, that I paid above the scale. Generall the scale was demanded.

Q Do you mean by that that on your own farm you paid foreign workers more than the scale laid down for German workers in Germany ?

H0966-0051

H0966-0052

A There was a pre-war minimum wage regulation for foreign labor.

Q Was there a minimum wage for farm laborers laid down in Germany, irrespective of whether it was German or foreign labor ?

A After the arrival of the first transports, there appeared a wage scale for foreign labor.

Q Can you tell me at what date there first came into force one scale for foreign labor and another scale for German labor ?

A I cannot tell the exact date. I can only state that I, and many other heads of farms, paid these people according to the "roving workers" scale.

Q Did you pay them according to that scale until the end of the war ?

A I myself, and many other farmers, did not introduce the lower minimum scale.

Q What was the difference between the minimum foreign labor scale and the minimum for German farm workers ?

A There was only a minor difference.

Q By 1944, of course, you were in no doubt at all that the foreign laborers were not in Germany of their own free will, were you ?

A I stated previously that originally I did not know anything about that. From 1943 or so -- I do not remember the exact time -- we heard of ways of acquiring that labor in foreign countries which were practiced by some sort of officers there.

Q And when you heard that, of course you couldn't be blind to the fact that such labor, working for rates lower than the minimum rates for Germans, was something very akin to slavery ?

A They all had savings accumulated when the war ended.

Q As I understand it, you are speaking for all the experts on the gauleiter's staff ?

HO966-0053

A Yes. I am sitting here for the political organization for the office of Agrarpolitischer Apparat and for the amt Landvolk (office of the farmers).

Q But am I not right in saying that you are speaking not only for the office of Agrarpolitischer Apparat, but also for similarly placed experts -- that is, for health, education, and so forth, on the gauleiter's staff?

A I assume that the experts in these fields will be permitted to have their say. I myself can state things only for thd offices which I either know or have been in myself.

Q Well, you are here to tell us that the office for Agrarpolitischer Apparat, at least, and other unspecified offices which you know well, were in no way connected with politics?

A Yes.

Q Can you estimate for me how many such offices there would have been on the staff of the gauleiter?

A May I think it over? The office for Community Politics, educatio technique, the NSV. At this moment I cannot recall any other offices -- but there are some professional offices.

Q The organization of these offices was an important part of a gauleiter's task, wasn't it?

A One cannot say that that was a task of the gauleiter, because, for the farmers, the Reichsnachrstand was competent; and before the Teichsnachrstand, the Agrarpolitischer Apparat -- in other words the professional experts of the gau and kreis.

Q If it had not been for those people who filled offices in the office of the gau, it would, would it not, have been quite impossible for him to fill his position in the State?

A One cannot say.

Q Well, he couldn't have carried it on alone, could he?

A The gauleiter had his staff, as did respectively the offices of the kreisleiter and the ortsgruppenleiter.

Q Yes, but they weren't experts on health, education, and agriculture. The gauleiter had to have such experts, didn't he, in order to enable him

to fulfil the function for which he was appointed?

A These professional experts were known as hoheitstraegers, collectively. I would call here Gauleiter Eggeling and Gauleiter Hildebrandt who were, for instance, agricultural workers or farmers. There were kreisleiters who were farmers by profession, and also ortsgrupponleiters who were farmers by profession.

Q Who was the gauleiter under whom you served between 1934 and 1945?

A While I was gaufachberater, it was only Gauleiter Dr. Hellmuth (Wurzburg). That was the only one. While I was in the Reichsnachrstand I had several - Gauleiter Wagner (Munich), Gauleiter Geissler (Augsburg), Gauleiter Wahl (Suebia), Gauleiter Streicher (Franconia), Gauleiter Holz (Franconia), Gauleiter Zimmerman (Franconia), Gauleiters Schemm and Wechtler (Bayreuth).

Q Do I understand that you fulfilled this office simultaneously in the office of several gauleiters?

A No. I was for the Agrarpolitischer Apparat with Gaufachberater Hellmuth, but I had official connections with the others.

Q During which period did you have official connections with Gauleiter Streicher in Franconia?

A From 1934 to 1938.

Q You couldn't fail to be aware of the worst anti-Jewish excesses committed by Streicher in Franconia?

A A conference took place with Streicher's assistant, Holz, whose name I have given here, concerning the expulsion of Jewish cattle dealers from the markets of Wurzburg and Frankfurt -- whence these people had gone since theywere no longer admitted to the market here.

Q Did you realize that, by continuing to serve under Streicher, you wer giving your tacit approval of his behavior?

A Since the situation in Nurnberg was in conflict with existing laws and constitutions, we left matters as before in Frankfurt and in Wurzburg since we did not agree with such procedure.

H0966-0054

H0966-0055

Q But if you did not agree with such procedure, why didn't you resign your appointment?

A We protested to Bormann, which is to say his representative here. We did not extend such matters into other areas where they had not been.

Q But if there had been resignations from Streicher's staff, it would have been impossible for him to carry on?

A I don'tbelieve so, since Streicher's mentality would have caused him to go on in his usual way.

Q But Streicher couldn't have carried on the administration of his gau if he had been unable to find any competent experts to serve under him?

A It is my personal opinion that even a lack of experts would not have caused Streicher to deviate from his course.

Q But, although you realized that crimes were being committed by Streicher, you didn't think it would do any good to resign?

A I don't think that that had anything to do with the administration of the gau in this case, because Streicher was not the average type of gauleiter.

Q You know, Witness, that it wasn't a very big step to take. Your appointment on Streicher's staff was only one of several honorary positions which you hold. Surely, when you realized that this man was a criminal,

H0966-0056

the obvious manly thing to do would have been to disassociate yourself from him without delay ?

DR. LINK: May I remark here that, in my opinion, very considerable mistakes seem to enter upon the scene. The witness has been asked whether h was ever on the staff of the gauleiters whose names were mentioned here with the staff of Gauleiter Hellmuth. Consequently, I do not believe that the witness can answer the question regarding the possible consequences pursuan to the resignation of any of Streicher's co-workers, since he was never on staff of Streicher himself.

MR. MARECCO: I don't want to misrepresent the witness's evidence in any way. If I might ask two short questions to clear this up.

DR. LINK: I merely wish to enter the statement, in connection with th interrogation, that the witness never was a member of Streicher's staff.

BY MR. MARECCO:

Q. Witness, you don't want to be misrepresented. Were you at any time a ciated with the staff of Gauleiter Streicher ?

A. No.

Q. Then what did you tell us about your connection with Streicher's staf

A. I have merely said that, in my capacity, I was busy professionally within the five gaus of Munich, Ostravia, Upper Bavaria, Upper Franconia, a Lower Franconia.

Q. What exactly was the capacity in which you served in that connection What duties did you have to perform in Streicher's gau ?

A. As in all the other gaus which I have mentioned here, the activity ex tended to having to appear at conferences at the office of the gauleiter or to appear on questions pertaining to our office.

Q. One final question: You have told us that you were aware of the crim committed by Streicher within his gau. When you became aware of the crimes and the criminal nature of the man, can you tell us quite shortly why you didn't discontinue attending his conferences ?

A. I was called there only once, and that was in connection with the exp sion of Jewish cattle dealers from the Nuernberg market.

MR. MARECCO: I have no further questions.

(The Commission adjourned until 1400 hours.)

OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF TESTIMONY FOR THE DEFENSE OF ORGANIZATIONS, TAKEN BEFORE A COMMISSION APPOINTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 4 OF THE ORDER OF THE TRIBUNAL DATED 13 MARCH 1946.

20 June 1946.

COMMISSIONER:
Mr. Martin HAVARD

CORPS OF POLITICAL LEADERS

(The Commission convened at 1400 hours)

JOHANN ADAM MOHR, a witness, took the stand and testified as follows :

BY THE COMMISSIONER: The witness is reminded that he is stillunder oath .

THE WITNESS: Yes.

CROSS EXAMINATION

BY MR. MONNERAY:

Q. Witness, how did you know that the monastery was to be sold ?

A. I learned that due to the fact that in conjunction with the Father of that monastery who had to take care of it.

Q. Is it correct that certain monasteries were confiscated in order to resettle Germans from the East ?

A. That I do not know and that I cannot answer.

Q. Had the Reichsnahrstand anything to do with the aryanization ?

A. The offices of the Reichnahrstand were only requested to give their opinions.

Q. Those offices gave reports on the opportunity of aryanization, did th not ?

A. No, only on the value of the objects.

Q. They knew that the object was to be taken away from the Jews,did they not ?

A. Yes, in the course of the years - it was the aryanization of 1938

H0966-0057

H0966-0058

Q Darre was the chief of the Reichnahrstand?

A Yes, he was entitled to that by the Reichsbauernfuhrer.

Q His ideas were the ideas everybody had to follow, is that correct?

A Professionally, yes.

Q And he expressed the general idealogy of the officials of the Nazis officially dealing with agriculture and peasantry?

A Yes.

Q And each official dealing in this matter endeavored for his part to realize these ideas, did he not?

A Yes, that is correct, but there was always opportunity to raise objections.

Q Do you know the use of German agriculturists of Soviet Russian priso. of war?

A Most were used on larger farms. I am not in position to give an exact figure.

Q Do you know that these Russian prisoners of war did not receive the same food rations as the other workers?

A Yes, we were told that.

Q Yet, you maintain that all foreign workers had equal rights to German workers, do you not?

A Previously we had not talked about prisoners of war. We had talked about free foreign laborers.

Q Do you not consider prisoners of war as being foreign workers?

A They did not fall under the same regulations as the foreign laborers. They were under the Warregulations.

MR. MONNERAY: No further questions.

COL. ORLOV: No questions.

LT. COMDR. HARRIS: No questions.

BY DR. LINK:

Q You were asked whether you know anything about the Anti-Jewish War Court of 1933, and you answered that you subsequently learned about it. What ideas do you have in conjunction with the expression of the Anti-Jewish War Court of 1933 - what are you talking about?

H0966-0059

A I said this morning that an instruction concerning the boycott of Jewish enterprises did exist and could not be observed because certain economic sectors - as for instance, the trading of livestock and grain was in Jewish hand and couldn't automatically or suddenly be taken over by others.

Q You further were asked with which Hoheitstrager of the Party you had official contact with. You mentioned Gauleiter Hellmuth of Wurzburg to whose staff you were attached as advisor of agricultural matters and you mentioned als that an official of the Reichsnahrstand with other Party officials. First of all I believe that you forget to mention the Kreisleiter to whose staff you were attached as agricultural advisor in the city of Marktheidenfeld.

A It was my impression that I answered this question in the affirmative this morning.

Q What was the name of the Kreisleiter?

A The name of the Kreisleiter was Zorg.

Q That would mean that in your position as staff officer attached to the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, you had dealings with Gauleiter Hellmut and Kreisleiter Zorg?

A Yes, I did hold those positions, but I did not consider that a staff officer.

Q I only want to find out to whose staff one might possibly have you considered. I would like to know whether you further agree with me if I would say that your further relationships to other Gauleiters in Bavaria emerged from your position in the Landeshauptabteilungsleiter in Munich. Is that correct?

A Yes.

Q Therefore, would it be fair to say that your relations did not exclude those which any state office in the Third Reich had with those party Hoheitstragers?

A Yes, I have to answer that in the affirmative.

Q I would like now to make quite sure that there is no confusion of the different titles and functions to which you were attached and, therefore, I would like to ask if you functioned first of all in the Agrarpolitischer Apparat in the position of Kreis and Gau Falh Berater. Secondly, in the framework of the Reichsnahrstand who were Landeshauptabteilungsleiters in the Landesbauernschaft i

H0966-0060

Bavaria?

A Yes.

Q In that position with the Reichsnahrstand you had nothing to do with the Hoheitstrager of the Party?

A Only if we were requested to deal with them or if we got a written inquiry.

Q The things which you told us in regard to the Kreisdauernschaft and t Reichsnahrstand asfar as foreign labor was concerned. That belonged to the competents of the Reichsnahrstand, didn't it?

A Yes, but I did mention that the party was endeavoring to absorb those functions.

Q And the Agrarpolitischer Apparat opposed these endeavors?

A Yes, it was our endeavor to retain the professional concerns of the farmer on the level of the Reichsnahrstand.

Q And in addition to those two functions you were holding with the Par and with the Reichsnahrstand, you were holding a third position with the State Nutrition Office?

A Yes.

Q For what position were you considered indispensible?

H0966-0061

A For my work in the Landesbauernschaft and Landeshauptabteilungs.

M. MARTIN HAVARD: We would like to know what is the purpose of all your questions counsel. Are those questions of a professional nature or with the line of the indictment that those organizations are criminal ones.

DR. LINK: MY questions are in direct connection with questions which have been asked in the cross examination and the purpose of my question is to prevent any confusions of the different concept of farmers organizations which have been mentioned previously.

M. MARTIN HAVARD: You may continue.

Q To a question a few minutes ago, you answered that Darre expressed the thoughts and ideas which were the opposite to the thinking of the Party.

A Yes, as far as the field of farmers' problems is concerned - yes.

Q Dies that question change in any way the answer you gave yesterday and this morning, stating that Darre was fighting the inter-party circles, particularly Bormann and Hess in regard to internal politization of the farmers?

A I explained yesterday that Darre attempted to revitalize certain activities of the Agrarpolitischer Apparat, but that he did not much succeed, and that the non-political remained unaltered.

Q That is merely a partial answer to that question. You had stated that Darre in the interests of the farmers had been in opposition to the efforts of Bormann and Hess, and now one could conclude from your answer that Darre was an authority on the matter of farming as far as the matters are concerned that he would have been in agreement with Bormann and Hess.

MR. MONNERAY: I think if the witness is qualified to testify about the ideas, but not qualified to testify about the relation between Darre, Bormann and Hess.

DR. LINK: I may rephrase the question.

Q Would you insist that Darre until the end of 1942 endeavored to oppose the efforts to establish a closer political contact between the Party and the farmers' organization, and that he therefore was dismissed from his office?

A Darre repeatedly explained to us why he was in office and that he

H0966-0062

would oppose and continue to oppose the attempt of the Party to gain power to defen the farmers' organization.

Q Last question - before the recess a gentleman of the prosecution asked you whether you wouldn't admit that if not all professional advisors, like the advisor of peasantry affairs, and other professional advisors - if they had not continued to function then the Kreis and Gauleiter neither would have been able to continue their work for so long a time. Now I shall follow the the theoretical speculation of the prosecution attorney. Let us suppose that all those professional advisors, for instances, all those farmer experts suddenly would have resigned from their offices. Would you believe that such a mass resignation would have led to the break down of the Nazi Regime or would you rather agree that such a mass resignation would have brought about a stronger rule of the Party over the farmers which you tried to fight for ten years?

A If such wishful thinking of a mass resignation really would have been realized, Bormann's desire to gain more power over the farmers' organizations would have suddenly been realized.

DR. LINK: No further questions.

COMMISSIONER: The witness may retire.

Adjourned 1435 hours.

The foregoing is a true and correct transcrip of the testimony of JOHANN ADAM MOHR, taken on 19 and 20 June 1946.

The foregoing is a true and correct tranzcrip of the testimony of JOHANN ADAM MOHR taken on 20 June 1946.

D. J NOLL
Reporter

BERNICE WINKLER
Reporter

CERTIFIED TO:

GEORGE TAYLOR
Commissioner